

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2000 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT
FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS**

Project No.: CAP-6 PIP 8

I. Project title: Floodplain Habitat Restoration/Land Acquisition

II. Public involvement coordinators:

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|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Agency: | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | |
| Submitted by: | Pat Nelson | David Soker |
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III. Project summary: The goal of the Floodplain Habitat Restoration Program is to restore or enhance natural floodplain functions that support recovery of endangered fishes in the upper Colorado River basin. Land acquisition is one tool that is used to accomplish that goal.

Achieving this goal will require support and/or informed consent for the Restoration Program from a wide variety of individuals, organizations, and government entities within the project area. The purpose of our public involvement is to inform the public about habitat restoration and land acquisition, identify and address related issues, and develop support and informed consent from the public. Emphasis will be placed on landowners with potential riparian habitat.

IV. Study schedule: FY1998 to FY2000

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

-GENERAL RECOVERY PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTION PLAN

ACTIVITY II. RESTORE HABITAT

II.A.1. Conduct inventory of flooded bottomland habitat for potential restoration.

II.A.3. Conduct NEPA for floodplain restoration program.

ACTIVITY VI. Increase public awareness and support for the endangered fishes and the Recovery Program

VI.C. Plan and implement information and education and public involvement activities.

-GREEN RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM

ACTIVITY II. RESTORE HABITAT

II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.

-COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM

ACTIVITY II. RESTORE HABITAT

II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.
-COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: GUNNISON RIVER
ACTIVITY II RESTORE HABITAT

II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.

- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2000 objectives and tasks: The habitat restoration coordinator and the land acquisition coordinator have met formally and informally with individuals, private organizations, local governments, and members of the Recovery Program to disseminate material on these programs, give briefings, and receive feedback. They also meet on a continuing basis with landowners. The habitat restoration coordinator has established working groups to identify and resolve issues. Most of the federal, state, and local government agencies that would be affected by habitat restoration or land acquisition have been contacted and briefed. The same is true for the Ute Tribe in Utah, Mesa County Riverfront Commission, the Gunnison/Colorado River Sub-basin group for the Intermountain West Joint Venture under the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, the Uintah/Duchesne Partnership Group, the Intergovernmental Work Group in Mesa County, and other quasi-government organizations. Private organizations include water users, conservation organizations, land conservation groups, and so on. Whenever appropriate, contact is maintained with these entities.

In the past, the land acquisition coordinator gave formal presentations on the project to local governments during their public meetings. This included Uintah County, Utah, and Mesa, Delta, and Garfield Counties in Colorado. The towns of Delta, Fruita, Grand Junction, Palisade, and Rifle in Colorado were also included. For most of these local government bodies, preliminary meetings were held with key staff members before the presentation so they were informed during the public meetings. During FY 2000, follow up contacts were conducted when appropriate and a working relationship has been developed with many local governments. Local government representatives and other members of the community appreciate our efforts to keep them informed.

A special bus tour was organized during the summer to provide a general overview of the Recovery Program, habitat restoration, and land acquisition for representatives of federal, state, and local government agencies and non-profit organizations that we partner with in Colorado to protect habitat and acquire property. We received positive feedback from many of the participants.

In addition, the land acquisition coordinator participated in a tour of Grand Valley Recovery Program facilities hosted by the I&E Committee. During the tour, he presented information to help participants understand the questions and concerns raised by constituents with whom he meets.

- VII. Recommendations: Continue to maintain contact with affected communities to keep them informed, identify issues, address those issues, and build support for habitat restoration and the Recovery Program. Special emphasis will be placed on new policies or new controversial issues. Opportunities for partnerships will be explored whenever feasible.

VIII. Project status: In previous years, a major effort was made to involve and inform the public. Public involvement efforts in the future will be designed to build on those efforts.

IX. FY 2000 public involvement budget (Recovery Program funds only):

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| A. Funds provided: | \$0 |
| B. Funds expended: | <u>\$0</u> |
| C. Difference: | \$0 |

Note: Public involvement activities for the Floodplain Habitat Restoration Program and Land Acquisition consist primarily of labor and travel, and are funded out of the Land Acquisition budget.

X. Status of Data Submission: Not Applicable

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| XI. Signed | <u>Pat Nelson</u> | <u>David L. Soker</u> | <u>December 28, 2000</u> |
| | Principal Investigator | Principal Investigator | Date |